THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (d) The Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 does not differentiate between online lotteries and paper lotteries. The policy of the Union Government has all along been against holding or authorisation of lotteries or extending official support to lotteries in any form and for any purpose, howsoever laudable, on the ground that it encourages the spirit of gambling and disturbs the normal economic equilibrium especially in poor families. Therefore, the Union Government neither organizes any lottery of its own, nor does it permit the Union Territory Administrations to organize any lottery. However, since there has been no consensus for banning the lotteries at the national level as some States want to continue with it on the ground that it provides revenue to them, the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December, 1999 could not be passed till now. The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, to whom the said Bill was referred to, has *inter alia,* recommended that efforts should be made to evolve larger political consensus on the issue.

Killing of naxalites in Karnataka

2373. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few naxalites were killed recently in Chickmagalur (Karnataka) during a police encounter;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have proposed to deploy STF personnel in the district to combat insurgency despite the fact that naxalism is in its infancy in the State;

(c) whether there has been resentment among the people over Government's move to deploy STF to tackle naxalism which is considered a socio-economic problem; and

(d) whether the Centre would prevail upon the State to attempt solving such issues through dialogue?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Two naxalites were killed in a police encounter on February 6,2005 in district Chickmagalur.

(b) and (c) In the wake of the encounter, Citizens Invitiative for Peace activists met the Chief Minister, Karnataka and, *inter alia,* urged not to deploy the STF.

(d) The Government has asked the naxal affected States to intensify anti-naxalite operations keeping the door for peace dialogue with naxal groups open.

Review of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

2374. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, now in force in NE States has come to the conclusion that people of the NE want the Act be repealed;

(b) whether most of the depositions before the Committee underlined the attempt of Government to legitimize the human rights violations committed by armed forces personnel under the garb of the Act; and

(c) whether Government are committed to go by the recommendations of the Committee when submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Committee constituted to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 on 19.11.2004 is still in the process of ascertaining views of the cross sections of the society, stake holders, different parties, organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Review Committee is expected to submit its recommendations within a period of six months. After the report is received, Government will give it due consideration and take decision.

Meeting of inter-State Co-ordination Committee

†2375. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the inter-State Co-ordination Committee was held recently;

(b) if so, the suggestions received to check crimes in the National Capital Territory; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to implement these suggestions and by when these suggestions are likely to be implemented?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.